Rev^d A. A. Phelps

Boston

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and Rev Mr Shipman addressed the passage of the resolutions Regarded them as necessary to convert the South, especially the Clergy, to our position. Our influence was prostrate when silent. It was time to act. The Resolutions, although not all that D. Hawes desired, will be most happy in their influence, especially the latter calling the Churches to prayer and action. They were passed without opposition.

I transmit them to you to send to persons who may be present at the Associations in New. N. Hampshire & Maine. Perhaps one will be present. Will you not try to awaken interest in the attention of the Annual Missionary to the free people of color. We shall do more for them, when we have the brethren ready to cooperate fully with us for their improvement & advancement in Society & Religion. We must make the most of our means of influencing the brethren in the Ministry and the churches this year. It is the cause of God and the church must come up to the work in faith & prayer - in the strength of the Lord of Hosts and we shall prevail.

Dear Brother
Yours truly
S. S. Jocelyn

Resolutions

Resolved by the General Association of Congregational Ministers of Connecticut June 11 1840

Resolved - That the system of American Slavery is in the opinion of this body inconsistent with the principles of the Gospel and its immediate abolition by those who have the legal power, is a duty in this day of light, the blessing of heaven may be expected.

Resolved That we recommend to the churches under our care a prayerful consideration of this important subject and the pastors of the churches especially to make an application of all the influence for the abolition of all the evil in this land and through out the World.

I requested Mr Foster to send letters to you which I suppose you have rec'd -

I am dear Brother
Yours truly
S. S. Jocelyn

in the North Church Lecture Room which was quite numerously attended. I shall not have time to report the various remarks of different ministers on the subject of the proposed Convention, but it is evident that a great change for good has taken place in the ministry within a few years, and if the Convention is holden the cause of the Slave will no doubt be greatly promoted. The subject was finally referred to the Pastors of Northampton Hartford who were to call the Convention should they regard it desirable and to make the appropriate arrangements. If this Convention is called the discussions will no doubt be very thorough.

At the meeting of Association, ~~I improved~~ this forenoon had an opportunity to present to the Association the facts in relation to the present position of the African (American) prisoners and their prospects - and to call upon the brethren for a constant remembrance of these outraged men in their public prayers, and to awaken a deep interest in them in the Churches. Brother Ludlow also made an appeal, to lead the brethren to collections to be applied especially to their instruction. There is a deep and tender interest felt by the brethren for them and we may confidently expect that they will be remembered throughout the churches of this state.

Just at the close of the session Dr. Hawes arose with Resolutions which he had prepared stating that he could not feel satisfied to have the Association adjourn without an expression of opinion on the Slavery question, and at all events without presenting Resolutions for their consideration. He wished nothing done, and to have the South know where ~~the Ministry stood~~ the Ministry here stood in relation to Slavery. Rev Aaron Dutton

General Association of Connecticut.

New Haven June 18th 1840

Rev. S. S. Jocelyn

Dear Brother, [redacted]

You will be happy to learn that the example of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in their criminal neglect of the slave is not likely to be followed in New England. The General Association of Congregational Ministers of this State adjourned their session in this city this forenoon after an interesting and harmonious session of two days. Yesterday morning the subject of Slavery came up in a proposition from the Hartford North Association to have a Convention of the Ministers of the Congregational denomination of this State, to deliberate on the Slavery question and to ascertain what is the real opinion of the ministry on this ~~good~~ subject. The association adjourned to hold an informal meeting at 12 M. for free conference and prayer upon the subject. Not arriving in town from New York until ½ past 1 O'clock I heard nothing of this meeting until afternoon. A meeting of the same description was appointed at ½ past 6. P. M. It would be interesting to communicate to you the deeply interesting scenes enjoyed during the afternoon in the celebration of the Lord's supper and in hearing the Associational Report on the State of Religion, which was most cheering, and in listening to remarks from Rev. Mr. Meigs of the Ceylon Mission. The meeting at ½ past 6 was held in